(3) परियोजना के लिए पर्यावरणात्मक मंजूरी पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय तथा उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड दोनों से प्राप्त की गयी है ।

Acquisition of shares in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.

479. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. GIRIPRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have acquired the Nauru's Stake in the Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. at a cost of 68.3 million Australian Dollars;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. is running at loss since its inception in 1986;

(c) if so, what factors have necessitated the Government to acquire the Nauru's Stakes in the company; and

(d) what plans are proposed to run the PPL profitably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) has been incurring losses ever since it commenced commercial production in August, 1986, except in 1988-89 and 1991-92 when it earned profits of Rs. 12.02 crores and Rs. 13.08 crores, respectively.

(c) The Government of Nauru have been expressing their desire to withdraw from the company and sell their equity to the Government of India or its nominee.

(d) With the announcement of a concession of Rs. 1000 per tonne on the sale of indigenously manufactured DAP during the current Kharif Season, PPL would be in a position to sell DAP in competition with the imported DAP. This will help PPL to reduce its losses.

Import duty cut on some drugs

480. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the drugs on which import duty has been curtailed in the 1993 Budget and whether the Drug producing firms have reduced the prices to reflect the cut in the duty, if so, the names of such drugs;

(b) Whether Government have made any survey to ensure that the reduction of duty is reflected in the retail prices of the drugs; and

(c) if so, what are the findings and what action has been proposed where the reduction in duty has not been passed on to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) In the budget announced for the year 1993-94, the following changes have been announced regarding customs duty on bulk drugs:—

(i) Customs duty on four bulk drugs has been reduced from 110% to 80%.

(ii) Customs duty on four bulk drugs has been reduced from 110-80% to 25%.

(iii) The customs duty on bulk drugs used in the manufacture of life saving drugs and medicines as specified in Notification No. 208/81-Cus dated 22-9-81 has been exempted and Notification No. 45/79-Cus dated 1-3-79, vide which custom duty exemption was granted on various bulk drugs, has been rescinded.

(iv) The maximum general duty slab on bulk drugs has also been reduced from 110 to 85%.

The names of such bulk drugs are given in the respective Notifications issued by Ministry of Finance on 28-2-93, copy of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Due to reduction of custom duty on various bulk drugs and drug intermediates/raw materials as announced in the budget for the year 1993-94, the Government has reduced the prices of 35 bulk drugs under price control on 17-6-93. Due to the impact of reduction in prices of these bulk drugs, BICP has been asked to work out the revised prices of formulations based on these drugs. For the purpose of reducing the prices of non-scheduled drugs and formulations based thereon, the matter has been taken up with the Industry Associations.

Manufacture of Gentamycin

481. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: